



NEW DOCUMENT ON HUMAN DIGNITY FROM POPE FRANCIS:

On March 25th, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a declaration on human dignity entitled, *Dignitas Infinita*. It was signed by Pope Francis, so it enters our Church's ordinary teaching. It was five years in the making and went through numerous reviews and revisions by various experts before it was promulgated. If you would like to read the document, please use this link to the Vatican website:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/04/08/240408c.html>

Its fundamental focus is on the infinite dignity (*dignitas infinita*) of everyone. Pope Francis wants to remind us of the overarching template by which we are to live as Christians. Given the increasing coarseness, disrespect, and violence in our world and society, it is a timely topic for consideration by all Catholics. The document's fundamental point is straightforward: we are to afford everyone and ourselves an inherent dignity we all possess by virtue of the God who made us. As we know, this is easier said than done.

The document is broken down into four parts. The first three present the fundamental principles and premises of the words "human dignity." The final and largest section, and the section that has already generated some discomfort and disagreement, looks at a variety of examples where human dignity is not sufficiently recognized. I will be looking at these four parts over the next few weeks.

Introduction and Part I: The document states in the very first sentence that "every human person possesses an infinite dignity, inalienably grounded in his or her very being, which prevails in and beyond every circumstance, state, or situation the person may ever encounter" (DI 1). This truth is based on our belief that because all of us, without exception, are created in the image and likeness of God, all of us, without exception, have an inalienable right to our human dignity. For most Catholics, this will likely sound obvious to us. But if we scratch the surface of day-to-day life, we can easily discover that this is lived more as an ideal than as a reality. Review how you have treated those you live with today, those who you encounter in public or at work. Think of how human dignity has been the guiding principle for the way you use your words in speaking to another. I suspect all of us could do a better job by our words and deeds to respect the inherent dignity of all.

This section also provides a biblical overview of human dignity and how Christian thought over the centuries has developed its thinking on the inherent value of every human person. While a bit heady, it is worth reading.

Next week, we'll review more of this document.

-Fr. Michael

April 27-28 Our Lady of the Rosary Food Drive Please bring your filled bags with you to mass on the weekend of April 27-28. [Click here to sign up to assist with food collection at the truck and to see the list of food needs for OLR Food Drive.](#) Contact Mark Baumgartner, markbaumga@gmail.com.

April 28 - Recycle "Anything With a Plug" 8:30-11:30am. Drop-off electronics and home appliances in the Community Center parking lot to be recycled by "Anything With a Plug Recycling"! [Click here to see what is accepted.](#) Drop-off at traffic circle next to the Chapel. Contact JaVon Hansknecht, javon.hansknecht@stfrancisraleigh.org.

April 28 - Volunteer Celebration, 10-11:30am. For all you do throughout the year, it's time to tell you that we are so grateful that you're here. Join us after 9am Mass in Fellowship Hall to celebrate ALL of our Volunteers. All Are Welcome | No Registration Required. Contact: Stacey.Shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Through April 30 - DivorceCare Spring Series, 6:00-7:30pm. Don't go through the pain of separation or divorce alone. Join the DivorceCare group where you'll find caring people who understand and provide practical counsel. <https://www.divorcecare.org/groups/178060> Contact Bill Morgan, dejanuts@yahoo.com.

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Offertory Status

	Week 43 Collection	April Faith Direct	Year to Date	Year End Total (6/30)	
2023-2024	\$43,022.00	\$204,241.37	\$3,486,589.36	\$4,196,509.05	'24 Plan
2022-2023	\$26,138.50	\$203,852.74	\$3,418,641.51	\$4,036,294.79	'23 Actual
Difference	\$16,883.50	\$388.63	\$67,947.85	\$160,214.26	
% Increase	64.6%	0.2%	2.0%	4.0%	
Current Projected Shortfall:			\$79,990.13	\$4,116,518.92	'24 Projected

Interesting Financial Factoid: From a financial standpoint, the Parish is divided into four separate budget areas. The Church, The Franciscan School (TFS), St. Francis of Assisi Pre-School, and Columbarium each manage their own income and expense budgets. The fiscal year starts on July 1st and ends on June 30th. Please note we have Text-To-Give and QR Code options for people who would like to make a one-time donation to the Church. Your support is appreciated by the ministries that serve our community. Thank You. [Please Click Here to Give](#)



Scan the QR code to give

Text-to-Give: From your smartphone screen, create a new message. Click the "To:" field and enter 919-629-1199. Enter the dollar amount then tap the link to complete your gift. Register your credit/debit card.

To learn about all our giving options, [click here](#).

A click away If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at www.stfrancisraleigh.org

[Website / Realm / St. Francis Serves / Prayer Request / Listing of Prayers of the Faithful KBL series / Bulletins / Employment Opportunities / St. Francis TV / Giving / Feed the Need Staff / Parishioner Business Ads / Franciscan School / Preschool / All Ministries](#)



May 4 - Fiat Francisus Spring Hike and Prayer Walk, 2:00-4:00pm. Join other young adults for a casual hike in Umstead Park. We also will be exploring alternative forms of prayer with a 20-30 min prayer walk. Meet at the first parking lot for Potts Branch Trail from 2-4 pm. Optional hangout time at Gizmo Brew Works afterwards! Contact Michelle Kaiser, mmk4894@yahoo.com.

May 5 - Why Faith? Adult and Family Formation

Join us on Sunday, May 5 at 10:15am in Founders Room. What do Laudato Si, the 5 R's and Oklahoma oil wells have in common? Find out at Why Faith - Adult & Family Formation. (Hint: You will learn more about our call to care for creation.) NO Registration required. Contact Jay Landry, jay.landry@stfrancisraleigh.org.

May 6 - June 24: Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response

Explore God's call as we seek to answer:

1. What tools does my Catholic faith have to offer regarding huge questions around poverty and injustice?
2. In light of poverty and other forms of human suffering, what is the Good News of the Gospel?

"Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response" groups will meet for two hours weekly, for eight weeks total, in a group of 8 to 15 people. You are invited to a lively and challenging process of spiritual transformation through prayer, discussion, books, videos, a retreat, and immersion. All groups will run from the week of May 6 through the week of June 24.

Click a link below to join its Realm group!

[Mondays, 4pm-6pm \[virtual\]](#)
[Tuesdays, 7pm-9pm \[virtual\]](#)
[Wednesdays, 6:30pm-8:30pm \[in-person\]](#)
[Thursdays, 10am-12pm \[in-person\]](#)
[Thursdays, 1pm-3pm \[virtual\]](#)

In-person groups will meet on our parish campus. All participants will be responsible for purchasing their own [program books](#).

May 11- Women's Ministry Nature Immersion and Hike

9:00-11:30am. Join Women's Ministry for a nature immersion experience, also known as an "awe walk," where we will connect with God through nature and one another. Participants are welcome to stay after for a hike and some fellowship. Register in Realm. Contact sfa.womens.ministry@gmail.com for more information. [Register here](#).

May 17 - Altar Server Celebration, 5:30-8:00pm.

Join us as we celebrate our current Amazing Altar Servers with an evening of fun games, awards, pizza, prizes and ICE CREAM!! We will also invite this amazing group of youth to explore other service opportunities within our Faith Community. [Register here](#). Contact John Price, johnprice25@hotmail.com.

Parishioner Owned Businesses Ad Page

Support our local parishioner-owned businesses

To advertise email: diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org

Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parishioner-businesses/>

May 18 - Corral Riding Academy Saturday on the Farm, 9:30am-12:00pm. CORRAL Riding Academy is a faith-motivated nonprofit that serves adolescent girls in high-risk situations through a long-term, holistic program of equine therapy and education. Join us as we do hands-on projects to support the Kildaire campus and learn more about CORRAL's mission and programs! Families welcome! [Register here](#). Contact Donna Schwede, donna.schwede@gmail.com.

June 1- July 28: Summer Men's 18+ Adult Basketball League

This is open to Men age 18 or older. Registration is TEAM BASED. Players will form their own teams and submit a team registration. There will also be the ability to register as a free agent. Games will be held on Saturdays and Sundays in June and July. [Info and registration](#). Contact Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 3-July 25: Youth Volleyball League Registration.

Registration is open for Coed League for children of all skill levels - rising 3rd graders through rising 9th graders. Teams have an hour practice on Mon. or Wed. Games are held on Thurs. nights. For more Information and to Register: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/>
Contact: Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 10-14, June 17-21, July 8-12, July 15-19, July 22-26

Camp Francis is our popular summer camp, and has lots of cool opportunities in athletics, technologies, arts and various enrichment areas! Camps are half day or full day based on age for the 2024-2025 school year. (Rising K-Rising 8th grade) Contact Ashley Watson, Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org Contact Phone 919-847-8205 ext. 444
Registration Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

Camp Francis Explorers Counselors in Training

An opportunity for teens (rising 9th-12th grade) interested in developing leadership skills and working with children. They will work with other C.I.T.s and Camp Staff. They are to look at themselves as role models for the campers they will be working with. For information and to apply. Contact Ashley Watson, Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 17 - 21 Mercy Camp

8:00am-3:00pm . Rising 6th – 9th graders! Come join us for Mercy Camp!

July 8 - 12 Mission Mercy

8:30am-9:00pm. Rising 10th graders through College Freshmen! Join us for Mission Mercy!

For more information and to register for Mercy Camp or Mission Mercy visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/service-camps/>
Contact Becky Cawley, becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Employment Opportunities:

[Teacher, Lower Elementary](#) and

[Instructional Teaching Assistant- Elementary](#)

See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>

Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

If you can't access information through the hyperlink because you do not use the internet, please call the office to get information. (919) 847-8205

Monsignor Clay's Retirement Reception

Join us as we say good-bye to Father Michael at a Reception in his Honor following Mass on Saturday, May 18th at 6:30pm and Sunday, May 19th at 10:10am in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to volunteer to bring food, please scan the QR Code.

If you would like to offer Fr. Michael a monetary gift in gratitude for his service as our pastor and to assist him with expenses related to his transition to retirement, please make checks payable to "Michael Clay."

For more information please contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org



OneHope Refuge: Info Session to Come! Ranked the 9th worst state on handling the crisis of sex trafficking, OneHope Refuge, a faith-based nonprofit that operates safe houses in Wake Co., is addressing this issue for women and children in NC. [Learn more here.](#) An information session on how our parish can collaborate to come this summer! Contact Jill Keaney 919-741-0436

Labor of Love

—The Story of the Nazareth Orphanage—



Written by Drama III Honors and Drama IV Honors

STUDIO THEATER · FREE ADMISSION

MAY 3RD AT 4:30 PM
RECEPTION IN LOBBY TO FOLLOW

Friday, May 3 - A Labor of Love: The Story of Nazareth Orphanage,

4:30 pm. Cardinal Gibbons invites you to an original play featuring the story of Nazareth Orphanage, founded by Father Thomas Price in 1899 on Western Boulevard, the current site of Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral. Admission is free and open to all.

Studio Theater at Cardinal Gibbons High School
1401 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh

All are invited to stay for a reception immediately following the 45-minute play.

For additional information contact Alumni Director, Susan Leigh '87 at susanleigh@cghsnc.org
More information: <https://gibbons1909.org/448hrE8>

St. Francis TV - Episode 38

Not Just for the Birds!

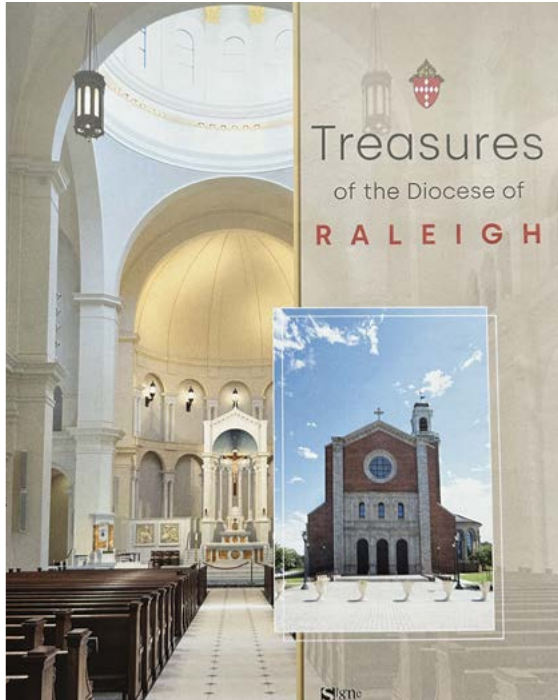


Our Cross Train middle school youth participated in a bluebird house building event last weekend. It was a tremendous success. They were engaged with a hands-on project to help the bluebird population thrive in North Carolina, by building birdhouses. It was an opportunity for participants to express their faith and care for creation. Our Co-coordinators, Becky Cawley and Shawn Tenace, did a wonderful job organizing the event and guiding our youth in this project.

[Click here to watch a 5-minute St. Francis TV segment](#) about the event.



TREASURES OF THE DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

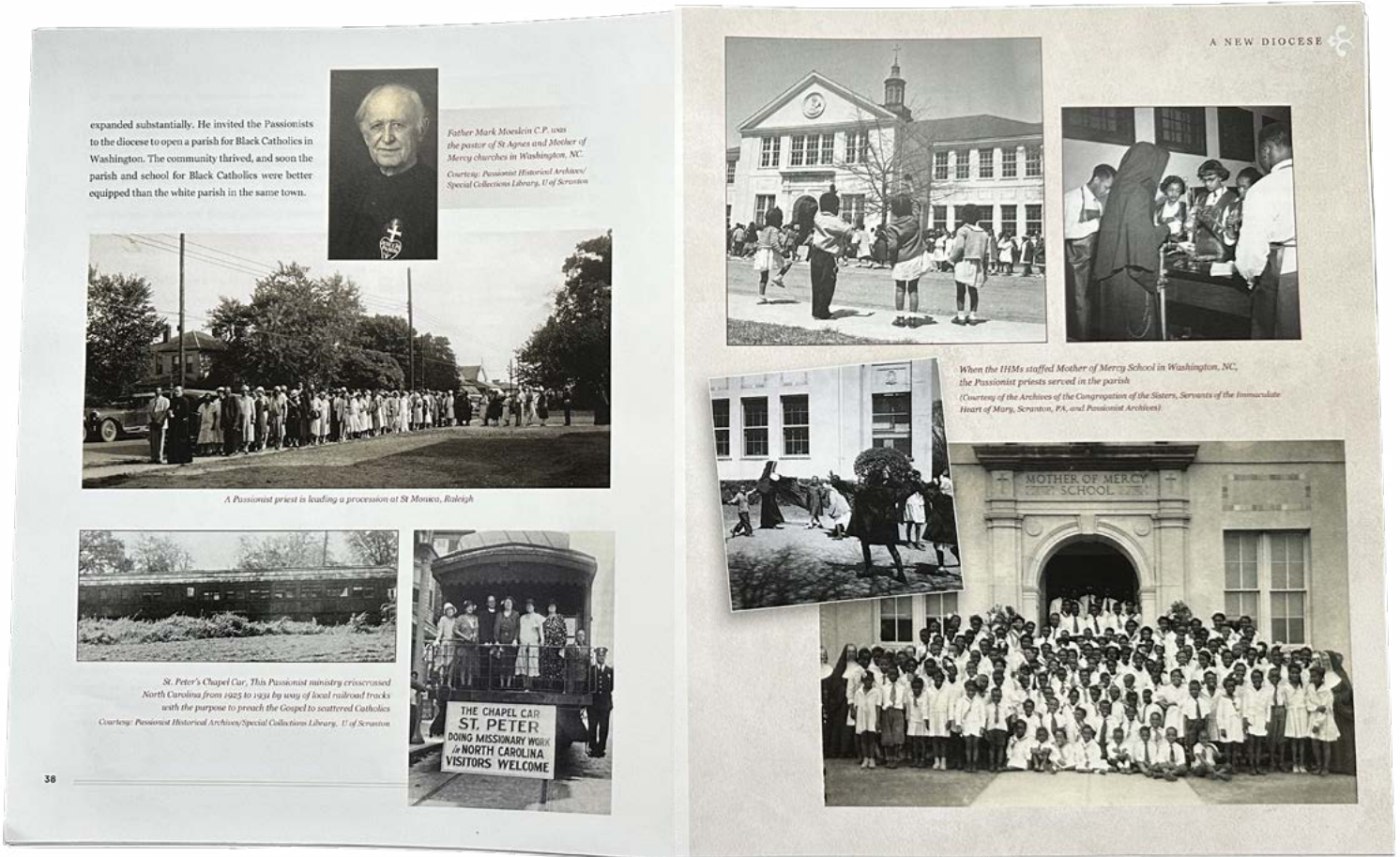


To honor our Diocese's 100th Anniversary, we're thrilled to introduce "Treasuries of the Diocese of Raleigh," a commemorative book detailing the history of Catholicism in North Carolina. It explores the founding of our Diocese, showcases each parish, and delves into key elements of our Catholic heritage, including the roles of founders, missionaries, clergy, and social justice initiatives.

This limited-edition volume spans approximately 325 full-color pages and measures 10x13 inches, making it a prized collector's item. Orders must be placed by May 6, 2024, at a cost of \$45 each. Consider gifting copies to loved ones! For ordering details, visit www.stfrancisraleigh.org, or scan the QR code, or [click here](#).



sample pages



expanded substantially. He invited the Passionists to the diocese to open a parish for Black Catholics in Washington. The community thrived, and soon the parish and school for Black Catholics were better equipped than the white parish in the same town.



Father Mark Moselein C.P. 1921
the pastor of St. Agnes and Mother of Mercy churches in Washington, NC.
Courtesy: Passionist Historical Archives/Special Collections Library, U of Scranton



A Passionist priest in leading a procession at St. Monica, Raleigh



St. Peter's Chapel Car. This Passionist ministry traversed North Carolina from 1925 to 1941 by way of local railroad tracks with the purpose to preach the Gospel to scattered Catholics
Courtesy: Passionist Historical Archives/Special Collections Library, U of Scranton



A NEW DIOCESE



When the IHMs staffed Mother of Mercy School in Washington, NC, the Passionist priests served in the parish.
(Courtesy of the Archives of the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA, and Passionist Archives)

